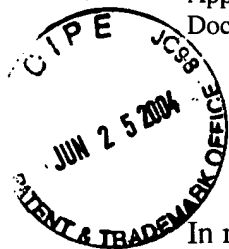


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Application No.: 10/084,143
Docket No. 87335.3461

PATENT



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of
David ENGEL

Group Art Unit: 3679

Serial No. 10/084,143

Examiner: Kenneth I. THOMPSON

Filed: February 28, 2002

For: RETAINING RING APPARATUS AND METHOD

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.111

Commissioner for Patents
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Sir:

This is in response to the non-final Office Action mailed April 13, 2004, having a three-month shortened statutory period of response set to expire July 13, 2004. The following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 8 of this paper.